From:	Edward Temko <temkon@me.com>
To:	Ehud Barak <ehbarak1@gmail.com>
CC:	
Date:	Wed, 6/17/2015 2:23:57 AM
Subject:	Re: from ned

And finally (I hope), what was Motta's position after the war (I assume he was brought back from DC)? My recollection was that he was re-named
as head of the northern command. But if so, why was he deciding on 401? Or was he in some other post?
Sorry for the confusion, but want to make sure I get that right.
Best
Ned

> On 16 Jun 2015, at 22:46, Edward Temko <temkon@me.com> wrote:
>
> Brilliant. Thanks.
>
> > On 16 Jun 2015, at 22:42, Ehud Barak <ehbarak1@gmail.com> wrote:
> >
> > Hi Ned
> > It was about March or early April 74, after I came back from my brief visit to Stanford in January (3weeks) to sell the car , buy a refrigerator and drier/washing machine etc. and bringing my wife and daughter back home early than expected.
> > I was by then a commander of basically the same battalion which changed its number from Battalion100 to Battalion 532now turned into a regular battalion 532 of brigade 460 with which we fought in the war. ,releasing most of the reservists who were the fighters and staff of the improvised one and absorbing many new officers NCOs and soldiers
> > Our role within the brigade was to be a "tank commanders school" as well as "apc mounted squad commanders school".
> > This was my position when the top leadership had to decide who out of the Lt. Col.s usually Battalion commanders will be promoted to full colonels and get the command of a brigade. (preferably Regular Brigade rather than reservists). The proposal of Dan Shomron backed by Kuti Adam that I will take directly a prestigious regular brigade (401) was not trivial. Because other candidates had many years of service on any possible level of tanks units. While I had only 6 months of Company level command, two weeks of wartime and 4-5 months as tank Battalion commander.
> > I don't think that Bren and Mussa Peled (the two major generals) had something concrete against me personally. I think they " represented" the armor corps loyalty to "their" people and probably were disturbed by the response among tank commanders (why not us? Barak is probably a successful commando officer but why the hell to prefer him to command a tank brigade? Is it the case that Motta (red beret) prefer other red beret(Barak) over black berets(armor)?). thus they told Motta: Barak is not yet "ripe" for it. He needs more time and accumulated experience etc.
> > they were quite shaken by my brutal response to their "observation".and Motta characteristically liked it without ever admitting it.
> > Best

EB

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 16, 2015, at 23:59, Edward Temko <temkon@me.com> wrote:

> One further question… When was your meeting with the top armored corps officers, and Motta, before getting command of 401?
> Was it while you were still commanding your improvised battalion, or after your brief trip back to Stanford, when you returned?
> Thanks
>
> > On 16 Jun 2015, at 21:56, Edward Temko <temkon@me.com> wrote:
> >
> > Just what I needed. Thanks.
> >
> > > On 16 Jun 2015, at 21:50, Ehud Barak <ehbarak1@gmail.com> wrote:
> > >
> > > Hi Ned
> > > Technically it is Debriefing. Or in Hebrew (plural) Tahkirim. תחקירים.
> > > It is run on battalion level,than brigade level, than division level than regional command level (southern/northern command etc.)
> > > So, there are many of them. Over several weeks. Thus, the use of plural language.
> > > Now, with post war black humor we've noticed the tendency for nostalgic, sometimes even painful, bitter sweet mood of reporting at the first level and nicknamed it Sipurey Kravot. סיפורי קרבות.
> > > Which means "Battles Stories".
> > > Then, along the way we've noticed that certain commanders who were quite confused sometimes during the actual battle and somewhat hesitant and vague in the first debriefing/reporting became more confident from stage to stage of the debriefings (battalion., brigade etc.)adding flavored,details and kind of (retroactive) prescient skill regard battle developments that didn't seem to really be there during the battles themselves.
> > > So we've cynically noted that Sipurey Kravot turned into Shipurey Kravot

שיפורי קרבות.
Which means "Battles (retroactive) improvements".
(note that phonetically it is exactly the Sibboleth/Shibboleth biblical differentiation.)
Cynical detached remarks/responses aren't rare among commanders in post battle context and usually are made with a subtle tone of eyebrow raising accompanied by a lot of empathy and understanding. After all we were all just out of the toughest possible human experience which is leading men forward against enemy fire. Loosing, irreversibly, so many of our own comrades. Some buried many wounded. Certain cynicism and self deprecating/detached black humor keep commanders spirits up and helps keeping yourself balanced and "calibrated" to face the tough reality.

Hope this helps.
Best
EB

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 16, 2015, at 23:00, Edward Temko <temkon@me.com> wrote:

> Hi Ehud:
> Can you remind me of the Hebrew word for the discussion meetings soldiers and officers held after the 1973 war to talk through their experiences, and what had gone wrong? Also, the slang expression you mentioned (a slight variation on the word) that captured the fact that the more times people told their stories, the less self-critical they became…?
> Thanks very much
> Ned